

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 9, 2010. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-26, 28, 29 and 31-38 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 13, 18, 19 and 35 being in independent form. By the present Amendment, claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 11-13, 18, 19, 28, 29, 31 and 33-35 have been amended and claims 5, 8, 27 and 30 have been canceled without prejudice. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present Amendment.

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious from U.S. Patent 4,428,078 to Kuo in view of U.S. Patent 6,459,363 to Walker et al. Claims 19-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious from Kuo and Walker and further in view of U.S. Patent Application U.S. 20030232181 to Simpson et al. Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits independent claims 1, 13, 18, 19 and 35 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 relates to a communication system comprising a communication path capable of conveying communication signals. The communication path comprises a cable having two substantially parallel separated conductors terminated with a resistance corresponding to a characteristic impedance of the communication path. A plurality of communication devices are provided, each communication device adapted to receive and generate VHF or UHF communication signals. A near field antenna is associated with each communication device, the near field antenna being provided sufficiently near to the communication path to couple VHF or UHF communication signals to or from the communication device to the communication path. An impedance of each near field antenna reflected onto the communication path is small compared to the characteristic impedance of the communication path.

As now recited in independent claim 1, a plurality of bidirectional communication devices communicate using a communication path. The impedance of each antenna reflected onto the communication path is small compared to the characteristic impedance of the communication path. This allows the communication path to effectively propagate the signals from multiple communication devices.

Kuo, as understood by Applicant, relates to a wireless aircraft passenger entertainment system (WAPES). A transmitter 23 is arranged at one end of each of aisle passageways 51 and coupled by a coupling network 22 to transmission line 26, as shown in Figs. 1, 5 (see also col. 2, lines 40 – 47.) A pick-up loop 30 is mounted directly above and closely adjacent to conductor 29 of transmission line 26 for inductively coupling the signals on transmission line 26 to a seat group of receivers.

As understood by Applicant, Walker et al. relates to a two wire communication system. As understood by Applicant, A controller 50 is linked to one end of a two wire communication line 51 and at the other end, to an end of line module 52. Modules 53-57 are connected to line 51 in parallel (col. 9, lines 4 – 17.) Walker et al. was cited as allegedly disclosing bi-directional communication modules.

As understood by Applicant, Kuo discloses that passenger entertainment systems used in aircraft generally include cables for transmission of signals and power to each seat adding an additional weight penalty to an aircraft added maintenance time requirements (col. 1, lines 25-30.) Accordingly, Kuo is concerned with doing away with the problems associated with such a hard wired communication system. A person of ordinary skill in the art looking for solutions to the problems presented by such hard wired systems would hardly be motivated to look to a system such as that disclosed in Walker et al. which requires wires for providing hard wired connections to the system elements. Walker et al. does not teach or suggest the use of a

system in which the communication devices are coupled to the communication path using an antenna. Accordingly, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the system of Walker et al. with the system of Kuo.

Accordingly, Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of a communication path capable of conveying communication signals, the communication path comprising a cable having two substantially parallel separated conductors terminated with a resistance corresponding to the characteristic impedance of the path and a plurality of communication devices each adapted to receive *and* generate VHF or UHF communication signals, as now recited in independent claim 1.

Applicant also finds no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of a near field antenna associated with each communication device for coupling communication signals to or from the communication device to the communication path, wherein the impedance of each antenna reflected onto the communication path is small compared to the characteristic impedance of the communication path, as also recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited art.

Applicant also finds no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of an HID/IPT system comprising a plurality of moveable pick-up devices associated with the power supply path and adapted to receive electrical energy from the electromagnetic field to supply a load, a communication path capable of conveying communication signals, the communication path comprising a cable having two substantially parallel separated conductors terminated with a resistance corresponding to a characteristic impedance of the communication path, a communication device provided on each of the plurality of moveable pick-up devices, the communication device being adapted to receive *and* generate VHF or UHF communication signals and a coupling unit associated with each communication device, as recited in

independent claim 13.

Independent claims 8, 19 and 35 are believed to be patentable over the cited art, for at least one or more reasons similar to those described above.

Furthermore, Kuo discloses an inductive coupling system (col. 2, line 14 – col.3, line 25.) Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion of the coupling unit being capacitively coupled to the communication path to couple VHF or UHF communication signals to or from the communication device to the communication path whereby the one or more pick-ups may communicate with each other or with a further device, and wherein an impedance of each coupling unit reflected onto the communication path is small compared to the characteristic impedance of the communication path, as also recited in independent claim 13.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Entry of this amendment and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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